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To the various States of the Republic were sent as follows: Minas Geraes, 1,786 tubes; Rio de Janeiro, 1,206; Rio Grande do Norte, 500; Goyaz, 270; Amazonas, Para, Maranhao, Piauhy, Ceara, Parahyba, Pernambuco, Alagoas, Sergipe, Bahia, Espirito Santo, Parana, Santa Catharina, Matto Grosso, Rio Grande do Sul—to each of these States 100 tubes; and to Sao Paulo, 20; in all, 5,282 tubes of vaccine.

Altogether 12,094 tubes of virus were distributed, and the product from 30 cows used.

*Sanitary report of Rio de Janeiro.*

During the week ended April 24 there were, in all, 328 deaths. Of this number 5 were caused by yellow fever, with the same number of new cases. \* \* \*

Plague caused only 1 death, with 2 new cases reported, the death occurring in the Santa Rita district of the city. At the close of the week there were but 4 cases under treatment at Jurajuba.

Variola caused 34 deaths, with 58 new cases reported, and at the close of the week Sao Sebastiao Hospital held 104 cases of this disease under treatment.

No deaths were caused by whooping cough, measles, scarlet fever, or dysentery. Diphtheria caused 1 death, grippe 6, typhoid fever 2, beriberi 3 (none from leprosy), malarial fevers 13, and tuberculosis 55.

The weather has been very cool and pleasant, with a total of 5.31 mm. of rainfall during the week.

The highest range of the thermometer was on April 18, 26.2° C., and the lowest on April 24, 18° C.

The average temperature for the week was 20.82° C.

*History and treatment of plague in Rio de Janeiro.*

The following is received from Acting Assistant Surgeon Stewart, under date of May 1:

I have the honor herewith to forward a few remarks upon the outbreak of bubonic plague in this city during the past few years and up to the present date.

In the first place, what has differentiated this outbreak of plague here—for it can hardly be said to have been really an epidemic in this city at any time since its appearance—from almost all other outbreaks of infectious disease in most localities is the fact that although pronounced to be true bubonic plague by the health authorities of this city and of Brazil, and although quarantine measures have been in force against this locality by the remainder of Brazil and by almost all foreign countries having communication with Brazil, still many foreigners here and also Portuguese residents of the country, true Brazilians, have maintained from the first, and to-day maintain as vigorously as ever, that there never has been at any moment any disease at all resembling in severity bubonic plague in either this city or for the matter of that, in any city of this country.

This sentiment has largely pervaded all the shipping classes, including the captains of the vessels trading here, as well as the shipping firms in this city. To such an extent has this idea pervaded these classes of persons that they absolutely scoff at the mention of bubonic plague, and although obliged by the Brazilian authorities to submit their ships to quarantine measures against plague, they lose no oppor-

tunity, either at this home port or at their ports of call, or, more important still, at their home ports abroad, to state to anyone interested that the whole matter—the existence of a fearful epidemic disease like plague here—is an absolute fraud and imposition upon all concerned.

This, although only a matter of opinion, still is more or less harmful in its ultimate results. Why this should be so of course needs no explanation.

The reasons put forward by these persons are as follows:

1. If, say they, bubonic plague were truly present here the health authorities would be absolutely incapable of handling it so as to confine it to the bounds within which it has been held. It would become a terrible scourge, sweeping throughout the land, killing all before it.

2. The reason for announcing officially an epidemic of plague here is, say these same persons, to create a need for employment of young physicians and medical students as sanitary inspectors and to call into work a large number of persons as assistants to sanitary inspectors, and to create a large revenue from fees from disinfections and increased inspections, etc.

3. Still more to the point, these persons say that were such a disease as bubonic plague really here they would not believe in its presence, with the small mortality rate attendant upon the present outbreak, upon the affirmation of the sanitary department of this city, as they do not believe in its competency to recognize a disease as unusual as bubonic plague.

The refutation of these statements can be very briefly made.

In the first place, the efficiency of the present sanitary department is not fully recognized by either the foreign element here or the resident population.

That it is just beginning to be so is easily perceived when I state that although the present head of the sanitary department of this country has been in place only eight months he has already made very many bitter and implacable enemies. \* \* \* The inhabitants of this city have been for so many years the victims of sanitary inefficiency that they can not all at once realize the change in these conditions that have occurred in the last few years. The sanitary department of this city is excellent in its conception and very good in its efficiency. It is, of course, capable of improvement (what city can not say the same?), but it is very far superior in all respects to what is generally thought of it.

For example, this city is quite as clean to start with and quite as well cleaned and kept so by the various branches of the sanitary department of the government as the cities of Manila, Yokohama, or Nagasaki. This statement I can personally vouch for as being correct, having seen and studied, to a greater or less degree, the sanitary conditions of the places mentioned. Now, if the sanitary authorities of any of these cities announced the existence of a case, or cases, of bubonic plague, and if such cases continued for a space of over three years, it would certainly be an astonishing thing could critics be found who maintained, in the face of official announcements and of the sickness itself, that the government was accidentally mistaken, or, as in this case, was willfully misstating facts.

In these cities when a case of plague does appear, it does not spread with fearful rapidity until the whole extent of the town is a hotbed of

the disease. In olden times it might be so, but since the adoption of proper sanitary precautions and measures the disease is usually confined to small proportions, and why should not this state of affairs be the case here, as it is in fact.

I believe myself that had the plague made its appearance here ten years ago, as well distributed as regards localities as it is at present, the disease would have assumed very alarming proportions, but under the present efficient health department organization the disease has been kept within reasonable bounds, and I think that in a few months it will be exterminated as regards foci of infection in the city itself.

However, as the disease is seated rather firmly in various parts of this Republic, as well as in ports in adjacent countries of South America, I am afraid that it will be some years before sporadic cases, introduced into this city from outside, cease to make their occasional appearance.

The second reason given by those disbelieving in the existence of plague here I will pass over, as it is really a very poor one, since in a country where yellow fever has been endemic, as well as smallpox, for many years, the endemicity as well as the epidemicity being admitted by all and firmly believed in as regards these two diseases, the number of sanitary inspectors and assistants is already so large, and the inspections and quarantine measures are so many and so well provided for by law and by regulations made thereunder that the advent of a new quarantinable disease does not mean the employment and general expenditure of money, or greatly increased revenue for the State either, that would be the case did such a disease appear in a country where no quarantinable diseases existed and where such sanitary service had to be organized *de novo*.

The last objection of the disbelievers, that the physicians of the health department here can not recognize bubonic plague, is, as I have already said, such an insult to the country at large that it should hardly need any refutation.

When one stops to consider the reputation of the Pasteur Institute in this city, and the fact that a large percentage of the physicians composing the highest health authorities of this country are graduates of the most celebrated universities of Europe, and have therefore been students under world-renowned professors and doctors, as well as the fact that the medical schools of this city stand well up among the best as regards personnel of the faculties and professors and as regards methods of teaching and clinical opportunities for the students themselves, I say when one stops to consider all these things—facts which need no proof because they are facts well known—it can be nothing but an insult to say that the bacteriologists and clinicians of this city, one of the largest cities of the world, can not diagnose correctly a case of plague.

And not one case—perhaps that might be more difficult—but over two thousand, with a mortality exceeding 49 per cent of reported cases.

I have gone into detail more than I had intended in the refutation of the ideas prevailing here among the laity, and among some physicians also, as regards the existence of bubonic plague, but it was unavoidable.

Personally, as I wrote you some days ago, having seen cases of plague in Manila, as well as in Nagasaki, I have no hesitation in affirm-

ing that from the clinical pictures and from the histories presented by the five cases of plague seen by me here on April 17 last, at the plague hospital at Jurajuba, those cases were all true cases of bubonic plague.

All cases of quarantinable disease are obliged to be reported to the director of public health as soon as possible after being diagnosed. Although this has been the law here for a number of years, as the fine for nonnotification was—until the passage of the recent health laws—so very small as to be of no importance it was a law more honored in the breach than in its observance. The recent health laws, a copy of which I recently sent your office, has changed all that. The fine is now so heavy that its nonobservance is hardly to be thought of, and it will be, as it already has been, enforced. Upon the notification being received at the office of the director of public health of the existence of a suspicious case of illness, inspectors are at once sent to the locality, one of the inspectors, sometimes more than one, being a physician.

If the case resemble bubonic plague, the person is at once isolated in his house or apartment, such isolation being really isolation and not a play at it, until further medical assurance is had of the real existence of plague in this case. Meantime by the aid of the Pasteur Institute, bacteriological examination of this case is made, and if it prove to be a case of plague the occupants of the house receive antiplague treatment, the antiplague serum used being a product of the Pasteur Institute and said to be of very excellent quality. The case being certainly diagnosed as plague, a full injection of serum treatment is given to the patient, this serum being also a product of the Pasteur Institute, and he is placed in the ambulance, and taken to the dock where the litter is placed on the hospital barge, which is then towed across the bay of Rio de Janeiro to Jurajuba, where he is then taken ashore and placed in the hospital.

I wish to place special emphasis on the fact that no one is removed to the plague hospital in whom diagnosis of plague has not been confirmed bacteriologically. This is most important, since the assertion has been made by enemies of the director of public health and the department that persons suffering from ordinary diseases, such as syphilitic and gonorrheal buboes, have been taken to the plague hospital and there contracted plague.

The hospital barge is a roomy houseboat, with a bed capacity for some eight or more patients, and being built upon a fairly good-sized hull accomplishes the journey, which is some eight miles, and rather rough in stormy weather, with as little discomfort as possible to the sick person or persons.

### *The Jurajuba plague hospital.*

The hospital is situated across the bay from this city, and is a building which has been used for hospital purposes for very many years. Portions of it are very old, but it has been added to from time to time, so that from a rather small hospital building originally it has come to be a building which can, when pushed, accommodate with comfort over two hundred persons. The lower floors are for charity patients, while the second floor is divided partly into private wards and rooms, for which accommodation a very moderate fee is